

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

All claims currently being amended are shown with deleted text struckthrough or double bracketed and new text underlined. Additionally, the status of each claim is indicated in parenthetical expression following the claim number.

Claims 1, 3-17 and 23 remain in this application.

Claim 1 is being amended.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method to attribute, reconcile and account for automated vehicle identification charges arising from a vehicle's usage, irrespective of said vehicle's ownership comprising:

(a) acquiring multiple automated vehicle identification tags containing encoded identification data from the automated vehicle identification tag issuance authority by a host reconciliation and accounting entity and further comprises the assignment of a subset of said automated vehicle identification tags to a least one multiple vehicle leasing entity;

(b) physically associating each acquired tag with any vehicle in a fleet of vehicles;

(c) associating a specific driver with the any vehicle of (b);

[(c)] (d) digitally recording and associating information identifying the physically associated tag, [[and]] fleet vehicle and driver;

[(d)] (e) machine-reading the associated tag's encoded information while the vehicle of (d) is in the proximity of an automated vehicle identification tag monitoring location;

- [[(e)]] (f) acquiring and storing within a database the machine-read data communicated of (d) to a host reconciliation and accounting entity from at least one multiple vehicle leasing entity;
- [[(f)]] (g) acquiring and storing within a database daily vehicle activity records which have been communicated to the host reconciliation and accounting entity from at least one multiple vehicle leasing entity;
- [[(g)]] (h) reconciling said acquired daily activity records and said machine-read data;
- [[(h)]] (i) communicating at least one credit charge billing statement resulting from said reconciliation and accounting entity to a credit charge acceptance entity
- (j) including in the billing statement at least information relating to a specific driver associated with the vehicle at the time of a charge occurrence; and
- [[(i)]] (k) receiving payment related to said communicated billing statement.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said multiple automated vehicle identification tags are acquired by a multiple vehicle leasing entity and further comprises the communication of tags and physically associated specific fleet vehicle identification information to said host reconciliation and accounting entity for registration.

4. (Original) The acquiring and storing of said machine-read data according to Claim 1 wherein said data is first garnered from a plurality of tag monitoring locations and then communicated to said host reconciliation and accounting entity from a data compiling entity.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said transmission of machine-read data to a host reconciliation and accounting entity includes information chosen from an information grouping including:

- (a) individualized tag identification information;
- (b) date and time tag charge occurrence;
- (c) monitoring station tag cost assessment; and
- (d) adjustment to monitoring station tag cost assessment.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said acquiring of daily vehicle activity records for vehicles to which said tags have become associated includes records comprising:

- (a) date and time periods each vehicle was utilized; and
- (b) driver identification for each period of vehicle utilization.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6 wherein said driver information further comprises:

- (a) said driver's name;
- (b) said driver's address;
- (c) said driver's telephone number; and
- (d) said driver's credit card name, number and expiration date information.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said credit charge acceptance entity is an individual responsible for payment of charges relating to said credit charge information.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said credit charge acceptance entity is a business entity responsible for payment of charges relating to said credit card information.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein communicating said credit charge information resulting from said reconciliation and accounting entity to a credit charge acceptance entity, further comprises:

- (a) communicating the name of a vehicle driver for a specific time and date;
- (b) communicating tag usage charges for said time and date; and
- (c) communicating said driver's credit card name, number, billing address and expiration date.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said acquiring of said machine-read data and said daily activity records is facilitated via computer compatible communications network.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said communicating of credit charge information is facilitated via a computer compatible communications network.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

- (a) communicating vehicle identification information describing vehicles with which said tags have become physically associated from said reconciliation and accounting entity to a tag issuance authority;
- (b) communicating lost or stolen associated tags from said reconciliation and accounting entity to a tag issuance authority;
- (c) deactivating said communicated lost or stolen tags.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

- (a) communicating a billing statement from a tag issuance authority to said reconciliation and accounting entity;
- (b) reconciling said communicated billing statement with tags issued to said reconciliation and accounting entity;

(c) communicating payment relating to said billing statement from said reconciliation and accounting entity to said tag issuance authority.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said method further includes the calculation and addition of a processing surcharge fee to said reconciled daily activity records and machine read data.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claims 1 or 10 wherein communicating said credit charge information further comprises communicating a rebate credit to said credit charge acceptance entity.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the transmission of accrued vehicle toll charges from said host reconciliation and accounting authority to said multiple vehicle leasing entity.

Claims 18 – 22 (Canceled).

23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the communication of advisory information from said host reconciliation and accounting entity to said credit charge acceptance entity.